Document 102 of 900

ENVELOPE

PAAUZYUW RUEKJCS4292 0581413-UUUU--RUEALGX.
ZNR UUUUU

HEADER

P 271413Z FEB 02
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEALGX/SAFE
P 271400Z FEB 02
FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OUSDP ISA/DPMO//
TO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW//POW-MIA//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC// (b) (3)
RUEHMO/AMCONSUL VLADIVOSTOK
RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG
RUEHYG/AMCONSUL YEKATERINBURG
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC/[redacted]
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP/ISA/DPMO/JCSD//
RUHVAAA/COMMCEN HICKAM AFB HI//USACILHI//
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI//J01//
RUHEMAD/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RUAGKFC/CINCUNC CFC SEOUL KOR
RHMFIUU/CINCUNC CFC SEOUL KOR
RUFDGDU/DIR MARSHALL CENTER GARMISCH GE//ECMC-ES//
RULSNDX/NAVHISTCEN WASHINGTON DC
RHMFIUU/NAVHISTCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ALMATY
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI
RUEHVN/AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02

/********** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE **********/

BODY

SUBJECT: JCSD INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERAN IGOR GIORGIEVICH KVATERNYUK.
SUMMARY: JANUARY 23, 2002, JCSD REPRESENTATIVES DANZ BLASSER AND MSG MICHAEL LUNINI CONDUCTED AN INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERAN IGOR GEORGIEVICH KVATERNYUK, WHO PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT MAY CONCERN MISSING AMERICAN SERVICEMEMBERS. HE ALSO PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERANS WHO MAY HAVE SIMILAR KNOWLEDGE.
1. JANUARY 23, 2002, JCSD REPRESENTATIVES DANZ BLASSER AND MSG MICHAEL LUNINI CONDUCTED AN INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET KOREAN WAR VETERAN IGOR GEORGIEVICH KVATERNYUK, DNEPROPETROVSK OBLAST, NIKOPOL RAYON, POSELOK KAMENSKIY, DOM 15, TEL: (05662) 78-4-83.
2. WHILE IN THE KOREAN THEATER OF WAR, KVATERNYUK SERVED AS A RADIO OPERATOR IN THE METEOROLOGICAL SECTION OF THE 213TH INDEPENDENT AVIATION TECHNICAL BATTALION (IATB). THIS UNIT WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE 18TH AVIATION TECHNICAL DIVISION BUT WAS ASSIGNED TO SUPPORT THE 303RD FIGHTER AVIATION DIVISION (FAD) AND LATER THE 190TH FAD. THIS UNIT WAS STATIONED AT MYAOGOU, CHINA. KVATERNYUK SERVED IN CHINA FROM MARCH 1951 UNTIL DECEMBER 1952.
3. IN ADDITION TO HIS DUTIES AS A RADIO OPERATOR, KVATERNYUK SERVED AS A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIS UNIT. IN THIS CAPACITY, KVATERNYUK PARTICPATED ON 4-5 SEARCH GROUPS THAT WERE DISPATCHED TO LOCATE AND CONFIRM UNITED NATIONS' AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN BY SOVIET PILOTS. ON ONE SUCH OCCASION, SOMETIME IN THE SUMMER OF 1952, KVATERNYUK, TWO OTHER RUSSIAN ENLISTED SOLDIERS, AND A CHINESE TRANSLATOR WERE SENT TO FIND AN F-86 THAT WAS SHOT DOWN BY A MIG-15 DURING AN AIR BATTLE. KVATERNYUK SAID THAT HE AND HIS TEAM LOCATED THE F-86 AIRCRAFT IN NORTH KOREA. KVATERNYUK WAS PERSONALLY IN CHARGE OF THIS SEARCH GROUP. THE SEARCH GROUP WAS DISPATCHED FROM THE AIRFIELD IN A STUDEBAKER > TON TRUCK FOLLOWING A MORNING AIR BATTLE INVOLVING MIG-15 AND AMERICAN F-86 AIRCRAFT. KVATERNYUK SAID THEY DROVE FOR 4-5 HOURS BEFORE LOCATING THE CRASH SITE. MOST OF THEIR TIME WAS SPENT WAITING TO CROSS THE BRIDGE OVER THE YALU RIVER BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY CHINESE TROOP CONCENTRATIONS HEADNG INTO NORTH KOREA. KVATERNYUK REMEMBERS THAT IT WAS A SUNNY HOT DAY IN MID SUMMER. WHEN THE TEAM LOCATED THE SITE THEY WERE INFORMED BY LOCAL VILLAGERS THAT AN AMERICAN HAD EJECTED FROM THE AIRCRAFT USING A RED AND WHITE PARACHUTE. THE SEARCH GROUP FOUND THE F-86 WRECKAGE IN AND AROUND A CRATER IT MADE UPON IMPACT. THE TERRAIN WAS FLAT AND MARSHY AND THE CRATER WAS PARTIALLY FILLED WITH WATER. THE AIRCRAFT HAD DISINTEGRATED UPON IMPACT AND WRECKAGE WAS STREWN SOME FIFTY METERS AROUND THE CRATER.
4. AFTER LANDING, THE AMERICAN WAS IMMEDIATELY TAKEN PRISONER BY LOCAL NORTH KOREAN MILITIA AND WAS ESCORTED TO A NEARBY POLICE STATION, ACCORDING TO KVATERNYUK. WHEN THE RUSSIAN SEARCH GROUP ARRIVED AT THE STATION THE NORTH KOREAN MILITIA TURNED THE AMERICAN OVER TO THE SEARCH GROUP. KVATERNYUK COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY THE AMERICAN WAS GIVEN TO HIM. ACCORDING TO KVATERNYUK, HE WAS NEVER GIVEN ORDERS CONCERNING ENCOUNTERS WITH AMERICANS BECAUSE THEY WERE ONLY SENT TO CONFIRM THE SHOOT DOWN, AND IT WAS NOT EXPECTED THAT THEY WOULD EVER SEE AMERICANS. HIS MISSION WAS TO RETURN WITH CONFIRMATION OF THE SHOOT DOWN, AND HE SAID, "WHAT BETTER CONFIRMATION THAN A LIVE AMERICAN?" (JCSD NOTE: INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED WITH OTHER RUSSIAN VETERANS HAVE PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT AN

AMERICAN POW IN SOVIET CAPTIVITY BEING TAKEN TO A SOVIET AIRBASE IN THE SUMMER OF 1952. SEE MESSAGES VOLKOV FEB 02 AND LUKINYKH OCT 00).5. THE SEARCH GROUP RETURNED TO THE AIRFIELD BEFORE NIGHTFALL THAT
SAME DAY. WHEN THEY RETURNED TO MYAOGOU, THEY PASSED CONTROL OF THE AMERICAN TO THE CHIEF OF THE SECRET SECTION OF THE 213TH IATB. THE BATTALION CHIEF OF STAFF, MAJOR POTRYASAEV, LATER TOLD KVATERNYUK THAT THE AMERICAN HAD BEEN SENT TO MOSCOW. KVATERNYUK PROVIDED US WITH THE NAME OF ALEKSANDR S. DUDIN, ONE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS PARTICULAR SEARCH GROUP. KVATERNYUK BELIEVES THAT DUDIN LIVES SOMEWHERE IN SIBERIA.

6. WHEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE THE AMERICAN, KVATERNYUK SAID HE APPEARED TO BE FAIRLY YOUNG, BLOND OR LIGHT HAIRED, HEALTHY BUILD BUT NOT LARGE, BETWEEN 5' 11" TO 6' 2". THE AMERICAN WAS WEARING EITHER A GREEN OR DARK BLUE FLIGHT SUIT WITH MANY ZIPPERS. KVATERNYUK SAID THAT HE WAS GIVEN THE PILOT'S PERSONAL EFFECTS TO PHOTOGRAPH. AMONG THESE ITEMS WERE A WAD OF DOLLAR BILLS AND A PHOTGRAPH OF THE PILOT WITH A YOUNG WOMAN. IN THE PHOTOGRAPH, THE PILOT WAS SITTING IN A CONVERTIBLE AND THE YOUNG WOMAN WAS LYING ON THE HOOD OF THE CAR WITH HER LONG BLONDE HAIR BLOWING IN THE WIND. THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS BACKDROPPED BY A CITY SKYLINE AT NIGHT. KVATERNYUK SAID THE PHOTOGRAPH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER IN A STUDIO BECAUSE THE ENTIRE SCENE WAS TOO PERFECT. AFTER HE PHOTOGRAPHED THE ITEMS, HE GAVE THEM TO HIS BATTALION CHIEF OF STAFF.7. KVATERNYUK HAS A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIMSELF, TWO OTHER RUSSIAN SOLDIERS, AND TWO NORTH KOREAN OR CHINESE SOLDIERS. ON THE BACK OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH HE HAS WRITTEN "SEARCH FOR THE F-86 SABRE SHOT DOWN IN JULY 1952." KVATERNYUK SAID THIS PHOTOGRAPH WAS TAKEN AT THE POLICE STATION THE DAY WHEN HE WAS GIVEN CUSTODY OF THE AMERICAN PILOT. KVATERNYUK SAID HE ALSO HAS PICTURES OF THE CRASH SITE. HOWEVER, HE WAS ONLY ABLE TO PRODUCE A PICTURE OF A CRATER THAT WAS PARTIALLY FILLED WITH WATER. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT CAUSED THIS FEATURE, AND THERE IS NO VISIBLE SIGN OF AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE. KVATERNYUK SAID HE WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND WILL PROVIDE THEM LATER. KVATERNYUK OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS UNIT. IN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED PHOTOGRAPHS, HE HAS AN AUTOGRAPHED PICTURE OF HIS BATTALION COMMANDER, LTC VASILIY TROFIMOVICH TRIPOLSKIY.

8. KVATERNYUK SAID THAT IN THE SPRING OF 1952, HE WAS PRESENT AT THE AIRFIELD WHEN AN AMERICAN LANDED HIS AIRCRAFT ON THE RUNWAY AND SURRENDERED TO SOVIET PERSONEL. ACCORDING TO KVATERNYUK, AN AMERICAN F-86 PILOT BECAME DISORIENTED DURING AN AIR BATTLE AND JOINED WITH A FORMATION OF MIG-15 AIRCRAFT. THE AMERICAN REALIZED HIS MISTAKE TOO LATE, AND WAS ALREADY IN THE LANDING PATTERN WHEN ONE OF THE MIG-15'S CLOSED ON HIS TAIL AND FIRED ON HIS AIRCRAFT. HIS AIRCRAFT HAVING BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED, THE AMERICAN LANDED ON THE RUNWAY AND IMMEDIATELY SURRENDERED TO THE SOVIETS. KVATERNYUK SAID HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE PILOT. AGAIN, THE CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD KVATERNYUK THAT THIS AMERICAN PILOT WAS SENT TO MOSCOW. HE SAID THE F-86 WAS KEPT FOR SOME TIME IN A COVERED REVETMENT BEFORE BEING DISMANTLED AND SENT TO MOSCOW. KVATERNYUK PROVIDED THE NAME OF ANOTHER WITNESS TO THIS EVENT, IVAN ARKHIPOVICH PUGACHEV, YAROSLAVL, ULITSA SVOBODA, DOM 87, KV. 46, TEL: 21-32-72 (JCSD NOTE: JCSD-MOSCOW INTERVIEWED PUGACHEV ON FEBRUARY 18, 2002).

9. KVATERNYUK WAS BORN ON JULY 17, 1928, IN THE CITY OF LENINGRAD

/****** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 ******/
(PRESENT DAY SAINT PETERSBURG), RUSSIA. HE COMPLETED SEVEN GRADES BEFORE BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL DURING THE NAZI BLOCKADE OF LENINGRAD. IN SEPTEMBER 1944, KVATERNYUK WAS DRAFTED INTO THE ARMY BUT RELEASED IMMEDIATELY SINCE WWII WAS ENDING. HE WAS AGAIN DRAFTED IN MARCH OF 1945 AND SENT FOR TRAINING IN THE ALTAYSKIY KRAY, RUSSIA. KVATERNYUK COMPLETED HIS TRAINING IN 1946 AS A RADIO OPERATOR AND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 213TH IATB. KVATERNYUK WAS RELEASED FROM THE MILITARY IN 1954 UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE KOREAN THEATER OF WAR. HE RELOCATED TO SIBERIA WHERE HE WORKED AT A GOLD MINING CAMP. KVATERNYUK SAID THAT HE HAD CONTACT WITH MANY GERMAN AND JAPANESE PRISONERS WHO WERE BEING HELD AT A GULAG CAMP NEAR KOLYMA. THESE PRISONERS WERE USED TO MINE GOLD THAT WAS LATER SENT TO MOSCOW. KVATERNYUK SAID HE NEVER MET ANY AMERICANS WHILE IN THIS AREA. KVATERNYUK FOUND EMPLOYMENT AT A REINDEER COLLECTIVE AND WORKED HIS WAY UP TO BECOME DIRECTOR. HE SPENT TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS LIVING IN SIBERIA BEFORE RETIRING TO UKRAINE.
10. KVATERNYUK SAID THAT HE WOULD MEET AGAIN WITH JCSD REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ARISE.

ADMIN

BT
#4293

NNNN